



*A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound*

## **The Long Island Sound Office** of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Long Island Sound Study Grants Fund Community Projects**

**Stamford, CT, January 20, 2000** - The Long Island Sound Study announced \$80,000 in grants to fund 17 community projects throughout the Sound's watershed. The 17 grant recipients were selected from 43 proposals submitted to the Long Island Sound Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The funded projects focus on controlling nonpoint source pollution, teacher training, habitat restoration, community involvement and education, and water quality monitoring.

This is the sixth year of funding for the Long Island Sound Study Public Participation, Information, and Education Small Grants. A total of 41 projects have been funded since 1995, amounting to \$131,952. "We are pleased that this program has

**(MORE)**

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received a substantial increase in funding for the second year in a row. This has led to a significant increase in the number of people getting involved and the quality of the events planned," said Kimberly Zimmer, Sea Grant Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study.

The grant recipients include the Mystic Aquarium, K.T. Murphy School, Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut, Trout Unlimited, Friends of the Bay, Soundwaters, CT Marine Trades Association, American Littoral Society, CT Audubon Coastal Center, Bruce Museum of Arts and Science, Rivers Alliance of CT, New Haven Land Trust, Norwich Public School District, Natural Guard, Seatuck Environmental Association, Housatonic Valley Association, and the Riverhead Foundation. Mark Tedesco, Director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office said, "This program brings together different individuals, civic groups, government officials, businesses, and environmental organizations together to strive for a common goal, the health of Long Island Sound."

Another request for proposals will go out later this year. All are encouraged to apply. Anyone interested in being placed on the Long Island Sound Study Small Grants mailing list should contact Kimberly Zimmer at the New York Sea Grant Extension office at (631) 632-9216 or visit the Long Island Sound Study Web site at [www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis/](http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis/) for more information.

**Title: 2000 NY Long Island Sound Coastal Clean Up**

**Project Design:** The American Littoral Society will hire a LI Coordinator to increase participation on September 16, 2000 International Coastal Cleanup at beaches in NY State that affect Long Island Sound. Outreach will be made to local environmental organizations, schools, colleges, scout groups and corporate volunteers to clean, document the litter and adopt a beach. Beach captains will be supplied with training, information and supplies needed for the cleanup. The cleanup will involve residents in a hands-on activity that will improve LIS and produce data to devise strategies for combating marine pollution. The cleanup will educate volunteers about marine pollution and what they can do on a daily basis to solve the problem of floatable debris. The cleanup will increase the public's awareness and appreciation of the coastal environment, especially the value of wetlands. It will increase cooperation between grassroots environmental organizations and local government. Information will be distributed concerning volunteer opportunities designed to improve LIS. Reports will be generated for the Long Island Sound Study, Center for Marine Conservation, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Organization:** American Littoral Society

**Location of Project:** NY Long Island Sound Beaches

**Contact:** Don Riepe, Project Director

**Address:** NY Chapter, 28 West 9<sup>th</sup> Rd, Broad Channel, NY 11693

**Phone:** (718) 634 - 6467

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

**Title: Long Island Sound Resource Program**

**Project Design:** The Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut plans to start a LIS component to supplement the exhibits, collections and educational outreach programs that are currently in place. Through this initiative, children and families will learn about the fascinating interrelationships of LIS natural systems. We will explore resource management plans and increase the understanding of LIS as a valuable and fragile resource. The emphasis of this project will be to challenge children to create preservation ideas for the future of LIS. The museum will write a 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum on seaweed, invertebrates and mollusks that will include 12 to 18 hands on activities and be tested during a summer camp. The museum will acquire a teaching collection of thirty local mollusks and other invertebrates and also a permanent museum collection of over 50 species.

**Organization:** Children's Museum of SECT

**Location of Project:** Niantic CT

**Contact:** Joan Smith

**Address:** 409 Main St, Niantic, CT 06357

**Phone:** (860) 691-1111

**LISS Funding:** \$4975

**Title: Alley Creek Habitat Study**

**Project Design:** To determine if Alley Creek is or could be suitable trout habitat and what steps could be taken to upgrade or restore the habitat. An Advisory Committee will be created to guide and facilitate the process. The hydrologic and biological characteristics and water quality of the watershed will be analyzed to determine the viability of Alley Creek as a trout habitat.

**Organization:** New York City Trout Unlimited

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**Location of Project:** Alley Pond Park Queens

**Contact:** Fred Thorner

**Address:** 325 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street, New York NY 10017

**Phone:** (212) 687-2493

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

### **Title: Fishing Clinics on LIS and Tributaries**

**Project Design:** Since, 1998, the US Fish and wildlife Service, Seatuck Environmental Association and Suffolk County Department of Parks and Recreation have cooperatively administered two one-day fishing clinics during National Fishing Week with numerous other partners (Town, County, State, and other nonprofits). The clinics were conducted at Southaven County Park in Brookhaven. In 2000, this interagency group will administer two fishing clinics at the Peconic Dunes Camp, located in the town of Southold on the LIS and Blydenburg County Park located on New Millpond (a tributary of the Nissequogue River and the LIS). Given the interest and previous success of the fishing clinics, coupled with these agencies mission, four events will be held at the two county parks. Topics to be discussed at these clinics include lacustrine, riverine, and marine ecology, environmental stewardship, fish identification, ethical catch and release methods and boating safety.

**Organization:** Seatuck Environmental Association

**Location of Project:** Peconic Dunes, Southold and Blydenburg County Parks

**Contact:** Lenora Daniel

**Address:** PO Box 31, Islip, NY 11751

**Phone:** (516) 581-6908

**LISS Funding:** \$4,273

### **Title: KT Murphy Young Mariners Program**

**Project Design:** The KT Murphy Young Mariners Program will allow sixty disadvantaged elementary school students to participate in a four-pronged program that will take them to the Soundwaters Classroom, the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium, the YMCA and the Stamford Yacht Club. The program is a partnership between the KT Murphy School and the Stamford Sailing Foundation. Students in the program will attend a year-long after school program that will provide instruction in swimming, sailing and studies including Cove Island Ecology, Introduction to LIS Plants and Animals, hiking the Cove Island Interpretive Trail, Living in a Watershed, Cove Island Birds and Plentiful Plankton. They will keep logs of every activity and they will produce a videotape of the entire project. Teachers in the program will develop curriculum for dissemination and conduct pre/post testing on each of the objectives. The Stamford Sailing Foundation will provide Sailing instruction, conduct all public relations activities and continue to find additional funding sources enabling the program to grow.

**Organization:** Stamford Public Schools

**Location of Project:** KT Murphy Public School, Stamford

**Contact:** Peter Gunn

**Address:** PO Box 9310

**Phone:** (203) 268-8651

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

### **Title: The Natural Guard - Neighborhood Steward Teams**

**Project Design:** Neighborhood Steward Teams are after school programs run in collaboration with

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New Haven public schools and community based organizations. The overall goal is to provide inner-city youth with the support and opportunities to understand and appreciate their local environment and build leadership skills to become active, involved citizens in its protection. Teams meet after school once or twice each week and on some Saturdays. Up to fifty children from ages 9 to 15 participate at no cost. Using watersheds as the framework for education, the program demonstrates how we are connected to each other in and between neighborhoods and beyond the borders of the City, as well as the influence we all have on the natural environment in our own neighborhoods and “downstream”. And through community service action projects youth learn and practice the skills of stewardship. Because the City of New Haven and its neighborhoods are shaped by its rivers, our education and outreach helps to nurture stewardship ideals in communities that effect and are effected by the LIS thus furthering the goals of the LISS.

**Organization:** The Natural Guard, Inc.

**Location of Project:** City of New Haven

**Contact:** Joanne Sciulli

**Address:** 142 Howard Ave, New Haven CT 06519

**Phone:** (203) 787-0229

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

### **Title: Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Education and Action**

**Project Design:** Friends of the Bay in partnership with the Incorporated Villages of Bayville and Lattingtown and the Davis Park Civic Association will conduct an education and action program about residential wastewater systems. The immediate goal of this project is to demonstrably increase the number of residences conducting routine maintenance of their onsite wastewater treatment systems. The long-term goal is to improve water quality in Mill Neck Creek, an important habitat and tributary of Oyster Bay and LIS. This will be accomplished by increasing awareness about the importance of wastewater disposal system maintenance in three cumulative phases. Phase One will consist of compiling existing literature, adapting and distributing it to residents in the target community. Phase two will consist of educational events known as “Septic Socials” to have neighbors encourage one another to have their tanks inspected. Phase three will encourage homeowners to have their tanks maintained using an incentive program either through a buying cooperative, discounted services or positive reinforcement.

**Organization:** Friends of the Bay

**Location of Project:** Mill Neck Creek Watershed - Bayville, Lattingtown, Nassau County

**Contact:** Rob Crafa

**Address:** PO Box 564 Oyster Bay NY 11771

**Phone:** (516) 922-6666

**LISS Funding:** \$4,300

### **Title: Where the City Meets the Sea**

**Project Design:** The Mystic Aquarium Education Center in Hartford is a place where people can experience a sampling of LIS firsthand. A cold-water exhibit of LIS fishes and invertebrates, numerous computer and reference resources, and hands-on programming are a few examples of what is available at the Center. Through this project, the Education Center will provide family events, classes for school children and teacher workshops. The established relationship among the

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Education Center, the Hartford Housing Authority, and some area schools will allow for dynamic communication to the community about the project. In addition, conversations about collaborations with Riverfront recapture and the Boys and Girls Club have begun.

**Organization:** Sea research Foundation Inc

**Location of Project:** Mystic Aquarium Education Center in Hartford

**Contact:** Cathi Lepore

**Address:** 55 Coogan Blvd Mystic CT 06355

**Phone:** (860) 572- 5955

**LISS Funding:** \$4,395

### **Title: Public Awareness of LIS Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles**

**Project Design:** This project will develop brochure cards and posters that will be distributed to the public to increase awareness of marine mammals and sea turtles found in the Sound. This information given will provide the public with a quick identification process for sightings of these animals. The public will then call the foundation to report sightings, thus providing data on population trends and movements.

**Organization:** Riverhead Foundation

**Location of Project:** Northshore of LI

**Contact:** Rob DiGiovanni

**Address:** 428 East Main St Riverhead NY 11901

**Phone:** (631) 369-9840

**LISS Funding:** \$4,767.75

### **Title: Housatonic Watershed Environmental Resource Center 2000**

**Project Design:** Housatonic Valley Association will include and highlight the connection between the Housatonic River watershed and LIS in the Watershed Environmental Resource Center programs. They will create a teacher resource guide for middle and high school teachers that identifies environmental education programs available from a variety of sources in the watershed and highlight those programs that deal with the effects of the watershed on LIS. They will expand classroom and student learning program "Ways of the Watershed" to include a new component focused on what the watershed contributes to LIS.

**Organization:** Housatonic Valley Association

**Location of Project:** Housatonic River Watershed

**Contact:** Ruth Malins

**Address:** PO Box 28 Cornwall Bridge CT 06754-0028

**Phone:** (860) 672-6678

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

### **Title: Fishway Education Project**

**Project Design:** The New Haven Land Trust will establish an education program in connection with a fishway that will be put in during the summer of 2000 on the Land Trust's Pond Lily Preserve. The principal components will be production of a brochure, to be distributed door-to-door in the nearby neighborhoods and in the adjacent shopping district, and organization of field trips for schools and residents of an adjacent public housing project.

**Organization:** New Haven Land Trust

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**Location of Project:** West River New Haven CT

**Contact:** Lauren Brown

**Address:** 341 Quinnipiac Ave New Haven CT 06513

**Phone:** (203) 466-7701

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

**Title: Show and Tell: Environmental Models for Presentations to Garden Clubs**

**Project Design:** Rivers Alliance of Connecticut will offer educational lectures to civic organizations such as garden clubs throughout Connecticut. Lecture topics would address nonpoint source pollution reduction, habitat enhancement, and nitrogen reduction. To increase effectiveness of the message two portable environmental models that dramatically demonstrate to the lay person the processes of surface runoff and groundwater contamination. Ongoing budget restraints in agencies such as the CT DEP have greatly restricted the availability of such lectures to these key groups.

**Organization:** Rivers Alliance of CT

**Location of Project:** Connecticut

**Contact:** Margery Winters

**Address:** 111 Main St Collinsville CT 06022

**Phone:** (860) 693-1602

**LISS Funding:** \$3,878

**Title: Mapping the Millennium**

**Project Design:** The Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center will conduct an environmental and educational mapping program in conjunction with seventh grade teachers and students at Harborside Middle School in Milford and Wooster Middle School in Stratford. Mapping the Millennium will focus on education middle school students from communities on both sides of the Housatonic River in salt marsh ecology and its importance to LIS. It will also focus on bringing Milford and Stratford middle school students together to learn mapping and field surveying techniques of salt marshes. The Audubon Center and selected trained scientists will conduct interactive in-class talks and field surveys at two sites along the mouth of the Housatonic River. The field component will include site evaluation and topographic profiles, vegetation surveys and invertebrates surveys. Upon completion of the field surveys, the students will compile and display maps and write reports on the study areas for class credit. A symposium is planned for students joint presentation of their findings to the entire seventh grade of both schools.

**Organization:** CT Audubon Coastal Center

**Location of Project:** Mouth of the Housatonic River

**Contact:** Richard Julian

**Address:** 1 Milford Pt Road Milford CT 06460

**Phone:** (203) 878-7440

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

**Title: Marine Ecosystems Research Methods**

**Project Design:** The Marine Ecosystems Research Methods workshop for teachers will be a collaboration between the Bruce Museum and Soundwaters. The purpose is to reach a wide audience by training teachers to involve their students in meaningful, scientifically valid, research activities leading to increased understanding and appreciation of LIS. The primary focus of the 5 day

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workshop will be providing hands-on research experiences in marine science and easy to use classroom and field activities appropriate for upper elementary and middle school classes. In addition to exploring intertidal habitats from the lab this year offers the opportunity to study offshore ecosystems and a wider variety of coastal sites through use of Soundwaters schooner and the teaching contributions of its program staff. Workshop participants will use research methodology in different intertidal and subtidal marine ecosystems. They will develop lesson plans and materials for student research projects in the classroom and field which utilize the scientific method and critical thinking skills.

**Organization:** Bruce Museum

**Location of Project:** Bruce Museum at Greenwich Point, Old Greenwich CT

**Contact:** Dr. Frank Cantelmo

**Address:** 1 Museum Drive Greenwich CT 06830

**Phone:** (203) 869-0376

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

### **Title: Soundwaters Senior Ecology Project 2000**

**Project Design:** SoundWaters will conduct two concurrent nine-week Senior Ecology Programs in the Spring and Summer of 2000. Working in partnership with the Stamford and Greenwich Senior Centers, the programs will be open to all senior citizens who live in Fairfield County, CT. Each program includes seven outdoor field trips to coastal and inland habitats and two indoor lectures, which will be held at the senior centers. The 3-hour sessions, held once a week for nine weeks will introduce seniors to the importance and beauty of LIS and its watershed, and demonstrate the problems caused by human activity. And, more important, the experience will inspire participants to take action to restore and protect the Sound.

**Organization:** SoundWaters Inc

**Location of Project:** Stamford/ Greenwich CT and surrounding towns

**Contact:** Emily Dupignac

**Address:** 69 Dyke Lane, #13 Stamford CT 06902

**Phone:** (203) 323-1978

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000

### **Title: CMTA Spill Drill & Spill Drill Reference Card**

**Project Design:** CMTA Spill Drill Project is a new hands on training program and informational handout for marine trades employees and related or interested parties such as marine patrol, harbor management employees and yacht club managers. The first component of this training program is to present three, all-day clinics in spring 2000 at waterfront locations. The second component is to produce and distribute a laminated Spill Drill Reference Card that can be posted in key areas - like gas docks, service sheds, marina offices and launch ramps that will reiterate the information of the Spill Drill Clinics.

**Organization:** CT Marine Trades Association

**Location of Project:** CT Statewide with LIS Focus

**Contact:** Grant Westerson

**Address:** 20 Plains Rd Essex CT 06426

**Phone:** (860) 767-2645

**LISS Funding:** \$5,000



**Title: Sounding Off: A Closer Look!**

**Project Design:** Sounding Off: A Closer Look is a project designed to instill a stewardship and appreciation of both the local watershed and the LIS estuary. The project will include the development and implementation of curriculum activities that will help students make the connection between our local watershed and the LIS. The project will involve fifth and sixth grade students in three of Norwich's elementary schools, in hands-on classroom activities and local and marine environment field studies. Students will develop presentation and research projects that will be featured at two local Community Outreach events. Additional project activities will include the development of a student project Web site, a student survey, and a pamphlet consisting of tips to help prevent local nonpoint source pollution.

**Organization:** Norwich Public Schools

**Location of Project:** Norwich Public School District CT

**Contact:** Patricia Grondin

**Address:** 90 Town St Norwich CT 06360

**Phone:** (860) 823-3211

**LISS Funding:** \$4,525